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# Kennedy Praises School Desegregation Supporters

## EDUCATORS' WORK CITED IN MESSAGE

### President Tells Rights Conclave Of Need To Preserve System

Brown says schools integrated "most satisfactorily." Page 26

By FRANK L. FERGUSON  
(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 25—President Kennedy today praised the "quiet intelligence and true courage" of school officials, parents, and pupils carrying out desegregation rulings in New Orleans and elsewhere.

"The whole country is in their debt, for our public school system must be preserved and improved," he said. "Our very survival as a free nation depends upon it."

"This is no time for schools to close for any reason, and certainly no time for schools to be closed in the name of racial discrimination."

#### Uses Prestige Of Office

In speaking out on civil rights once again, the new President threw the prestige and public opinion molding power of his office specifically against the closing of some Southern schools in the face of orders to desegregate.

He did so in a telegram to the Civil Rights Commission's third annual conference, "being held at Wil-

President Kennedy said the Civil Rights Commission's conferences on school desegregation have been "notable contributions to our national need for better understanding of this vital matter."

"It is a continuing contribution for you to bring together for an exchange of views the men and women responsible for maintaining our public schools and for carrying through the process of desegregation."

"Let me here pay tribute to these educators—principals, officers of school boards, and public school teachers. The constitutional requirement of desegregation has presented them with many new responsibilities and hard challenges."

#### Sees "True Courage"

"In New Orleans today, as in many other places represented in your three conferences, these loyal citizens and educators are meeting these responsibilities and challenges with quiet intelligence and true courage."

"The whole country is in their debt, for our public school system must be preserved and improved. Our very survival as a free nation depends upon it."

"This is no time for schools to close for any reason, and certainly no time for schools to be closed in the name of racial discrimination."

"If we are to give the leadership the world requires of us, we must be true to the great principles of our Constitution—the very principles which distinguish us from our adversaries in the world."

"Let me also pay tribute to the school children and their parents, of both races, who have been on the frontlines of this problem. In accepting the command of the Constitution with dignity, they, too, are contributing to the education of all Americans," the President told the educators.

#### Conference On Defense

The Chief Executive conferred this morning with Senator Russell (D., Ga.), chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Vice President Johnson.

After the one-hour meeting, Russell would not say whether they talked of a possible increase in the defense budget, but commented: "I don't think it would be possible, of course, to increase the strength of our forces without an increase in spending."

He added that the public "generally feels national defense is in the nature of an insurance policy."

Recommendations to Mr. Kennedy from Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, and others were discussed, Russell said.

The President also filled the last vacancy on the Atomic Energy Commission today, announcing his intention to appoint Dr. Leeland J. Haworth, director of Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island.

#### Resignation Accepted

The White House made known the resignation of James S. Lay, Jr., executive secretary of the National Security Council for eleven years. He had remained on the job during the first weeks of the new Administration at the President's request.

Dr. Haworth, 56, and a Republican, will be paid \$22,000 a year in the AEC post.

He has taught science most of his life and joined the Brookhaven laboratory as assistant director in 1947. He became director the next year.

Lay submitted his resignation to the President ten days ago. The President wrote him a letter of acceptance yesterday, declaring that he appreciated Lay's work with the council and felt "a particular personal obligation to you for your willingness to continue in the first weeks of the present Administration at our request."

#### Returning To CIA

Lay said he was returning to foreign intelligence work.

Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has indicated he would appoint him to "a position in the foreign intelligence community," Lay said in his letter of resignation.